

(12) **United States Patent**
Seo et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,047,929 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jun. 2, 2015**

(54) **MEMORY SYSTEM HAVING MEMORY RANKS AND RELATED TUNING METHOD**

(71) Applicant: **SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD.**, Suwon-Si, Gyeonggi-Do (KR)

(72) Inventors: **Eunsung Seo**, Seoul (KR); **Chul-Sung Park**, Seoul (KR); **Chi-Sung Oh**, Suwon-Si (KR)

(73) Assignee: **Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.**, Suwon-si, Gyeonggi-do (KR)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 15 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **13/967,506**

(22) Filed: **Aug. 15, 2013**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2014/0078840 A1 Mar. 20, 2014

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Sep. 18, 2012 (KR) 10-2012-0103457

(51) **Int. Cl.**
G11C 29/22 (2006.01)
G11C 7/10 (2006.01)
G11C 11/4076 (2006.01)
G11C 11/4093 (2006.01)
G11C 29/02 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **G11C 7/10** (2013.01); **G11C 11/4076** (2013.01); **G11C 11/4093** (2013.01); **G11C 29/022** (2013.01); **G11C 29/023** (2013.01); **G11C 29/028** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC G11C 29/22; G11C 7/10; G11C 11/4076; G11C 11/4093
USPC 365/191, 230.08, 233.1, 233.11
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

7,692,983 B2 *	4/2010	Lee et al.	365/198
7,839,716 B2	11/2010	Kong et al.	
2004/0105292 A1	6/2004	Matsui	
2010/0162020 A1	6/2010	Maule et al.	
2010/0269012 A1	10/2010	Hazelzet	
2011/0161581 A1	6/2011	Shin	

* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner — Jason Lappas

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Volentine & Whitt, PLLC

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A memory device comprises at least two memory ranks sharing input/output lines, at least one mode register configured to store bits used to tune delays of data signals of the at least two ranks output through the input/output lines, a controller configured to determine tuning parameters for the data signals based on the stored bits in the at least one mode register, the tuning parameters comprising at least the delays of the data signals, and at least one nonvolatile memory disposed in at least one of the at least two memory ranks and configured to store the tuning parameters.

11 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets

1

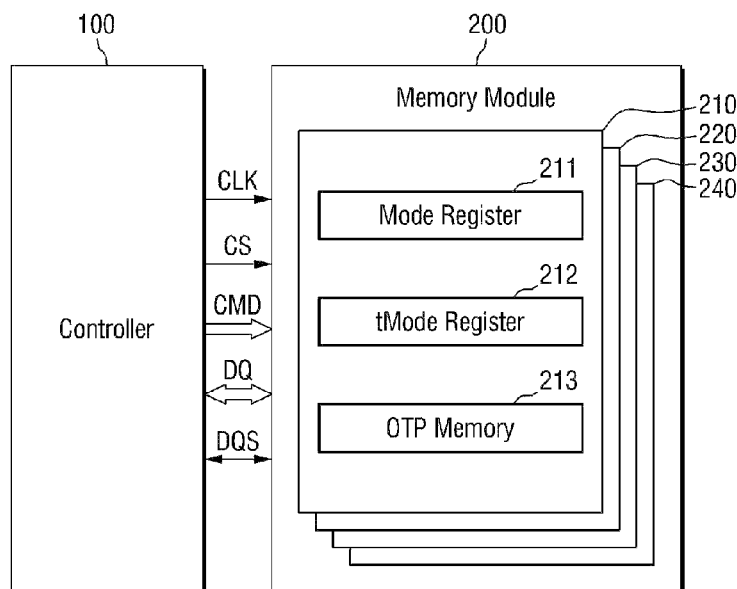


FIG. 1

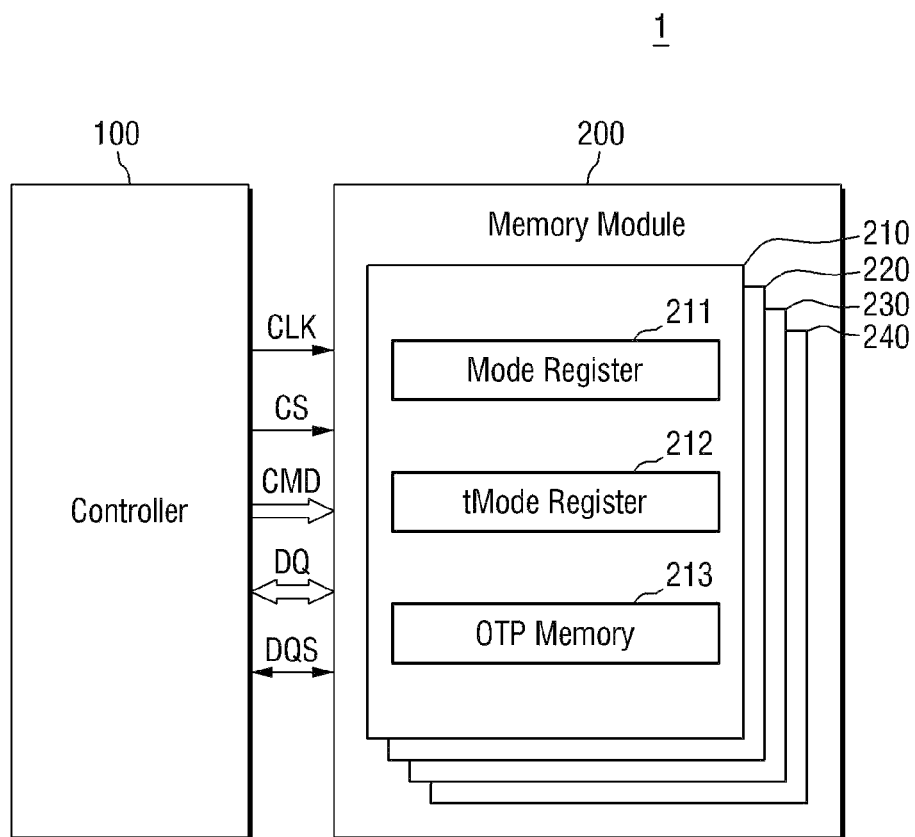


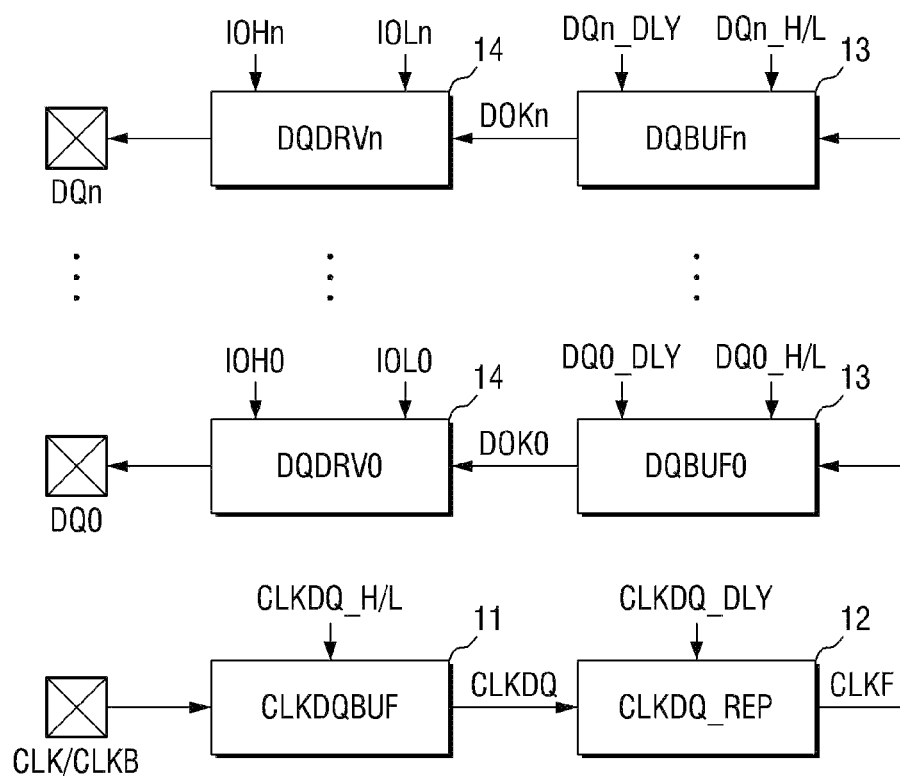
FIG. 2

FIG. 3

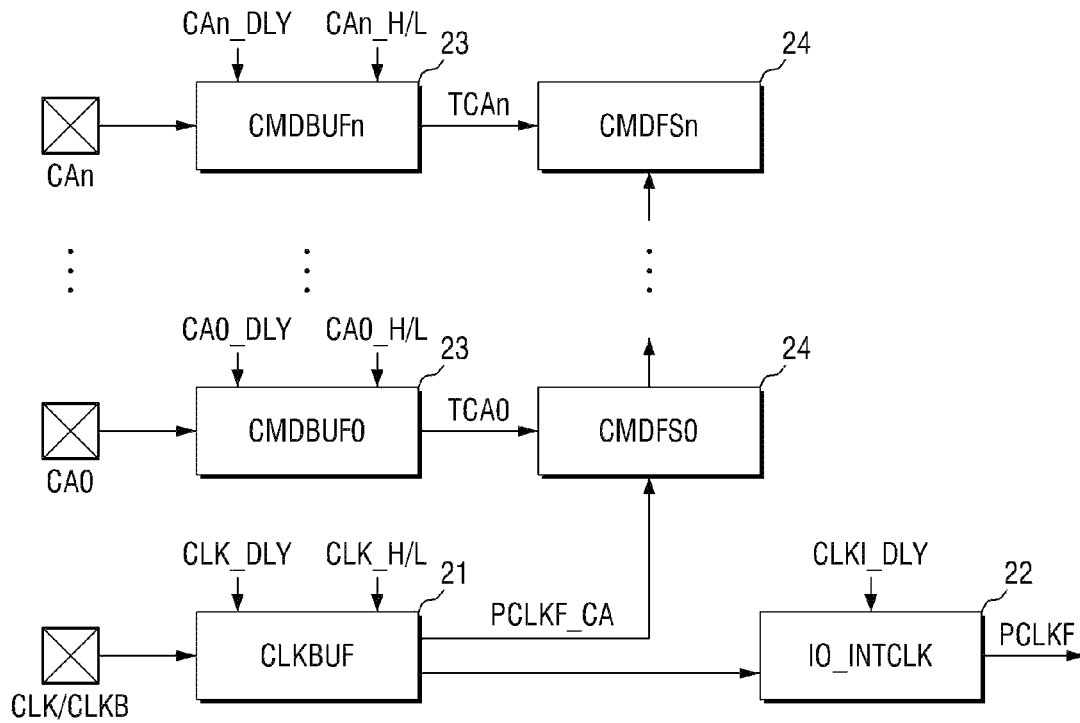


FIG. 4

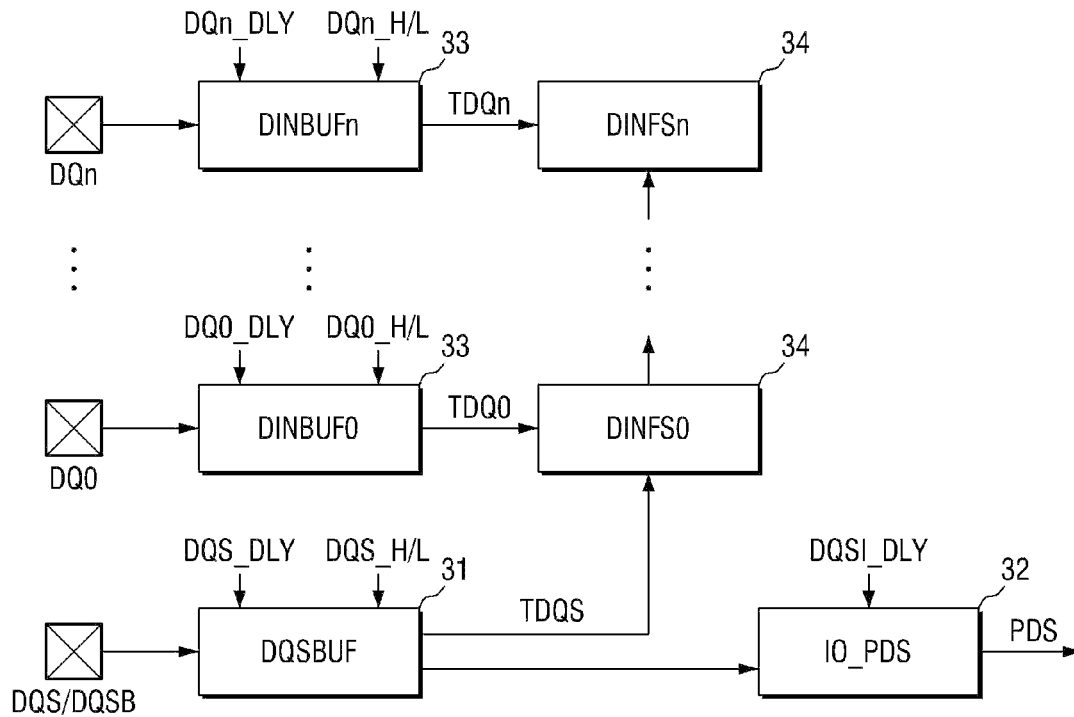


FIG. 5

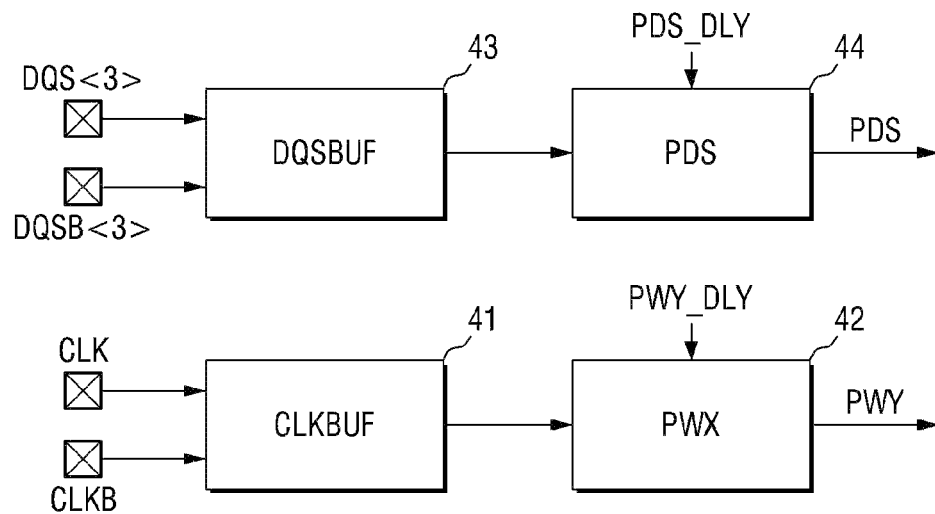


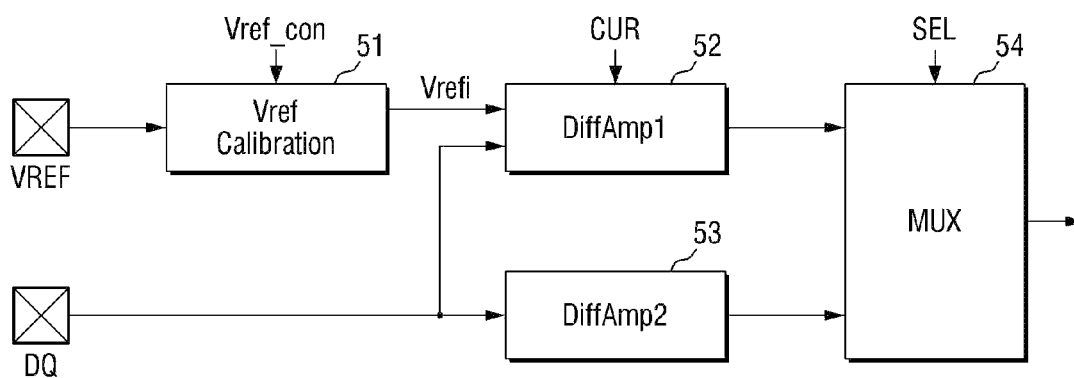
FIG. 6

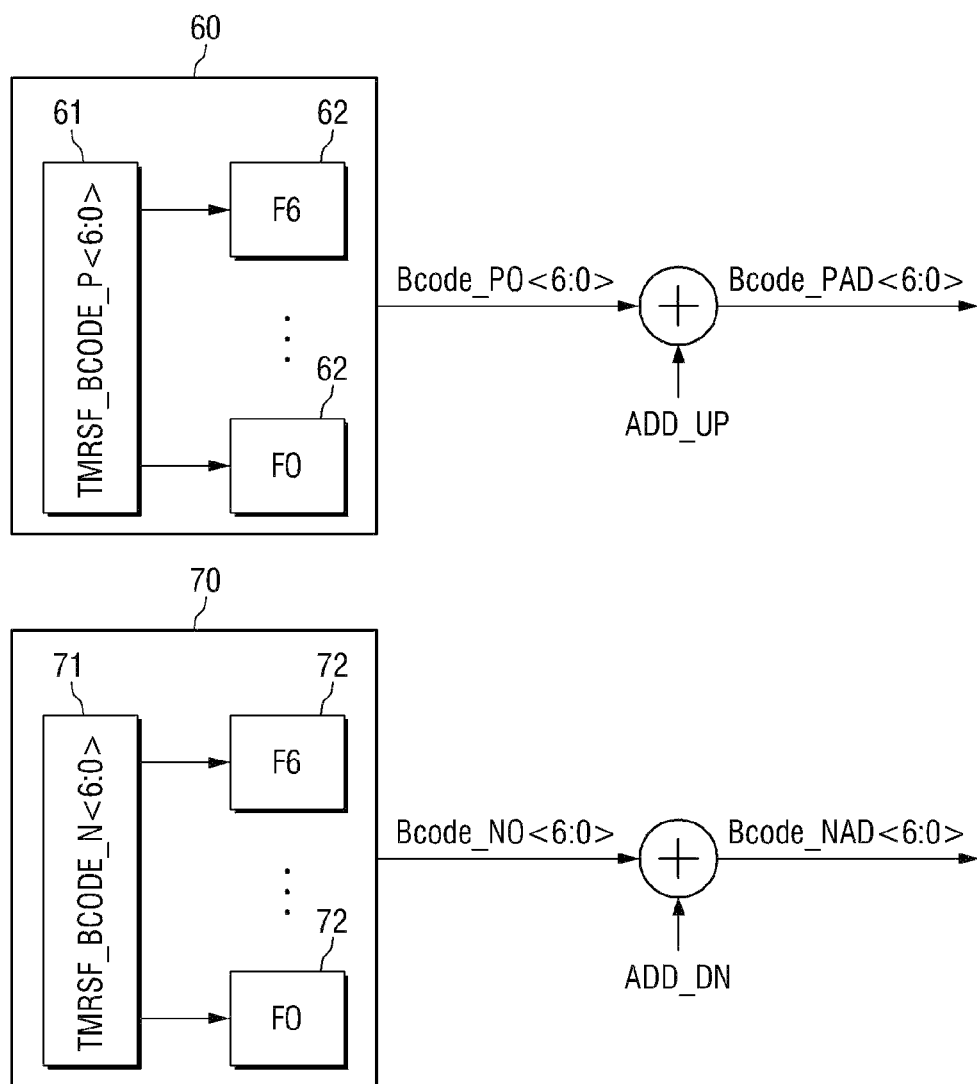
FIG. 7

FIG. 8

	A16	BA1	BA0	A15	A14	A13	A12	A11	A10	A9	A8	A7	A6	A5	A4	A3	A2	A1	A0
MR0	0	0	0	0					Write Latency			TM	Read Latency			0	Burst Length		
MR1	0	0	1	Currently only one register is defined at A[15:0] = 0, DQ0-20 is used for SRR															
MR2	0	1	0	0					nWR		TM	Drive Strength		0			Thermal Offset		
MR3	0	1	1	PASR															
MR4	1	0	0	Reserved for future use															
MR5	1	0	1	0								DQ/DQS Tuning							
MR6	1	1	0	Reserved for future use															
MR7	1	1	1	PASR															

FIG. 9

DQ17	DQ16	
0	0	no steps (factory tuning)
0	1	8 steps
1	0	16 steps
1	1	32 steps

FIG. 10

A16	BA1	BA0	A1	A0	
1	0	1	0	0	Do not change delay
1	0	1	0	1	Increase +CK to DQ delay 1 element
1	0	1	1	0	Decrease +CK to DQ delay 1 element
1	0	1	1	1	Remove all +CK to DQ delay

FIG. 11

A16	BA1	BA0	A3	A2	
1	0	1	0	0	Do not change delay
1	0	1	0	1	Increase -CK to DQS delay 1 element
1	0	1	1	0	Decrease -CK to DQS delay 1 element
1	0	1	1	1	Remove all -CK to DQS delay

FIG. 12

A16	BA1	BA0	A7	A6	A5	A4	
1	0	1	0	0	0	1	place +CK/2 on DQ8, -CK/2 on DQS0
1	0	1	0	0	1	0	place +CK/2 on DQ24, -CK/2 on DQS1
1	0	1	0	1	0	0	place +CK/2 on DQ40, -CK/2 on DQS2
1	0	1	1	0	0	0	place +CK/2 on DQ56, -CK/2 on DQS3
1	0	1	0	0	0	0	normal DQ/DQS functionality

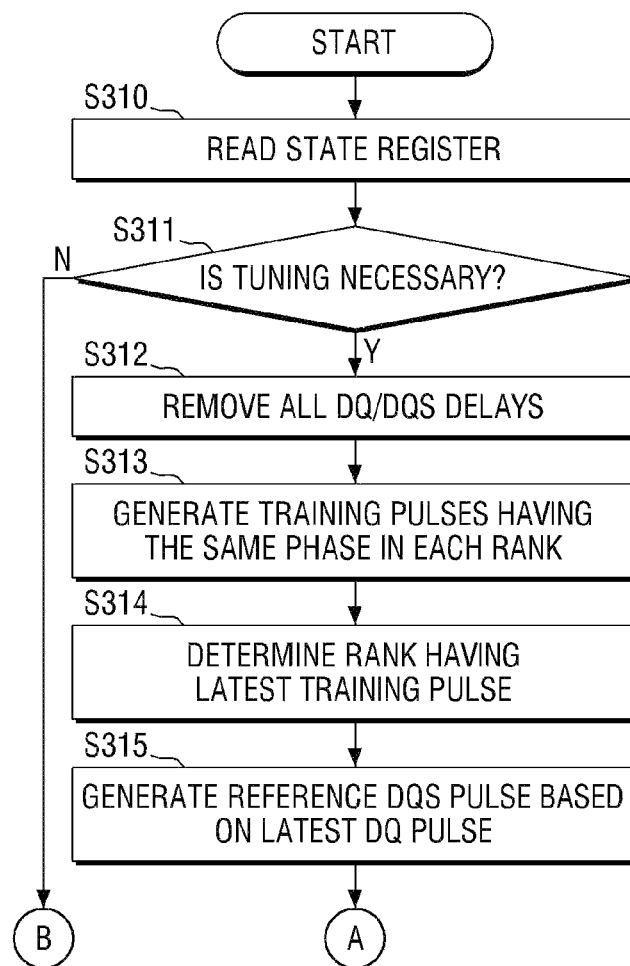
FIG. 13A

FIG. 13B

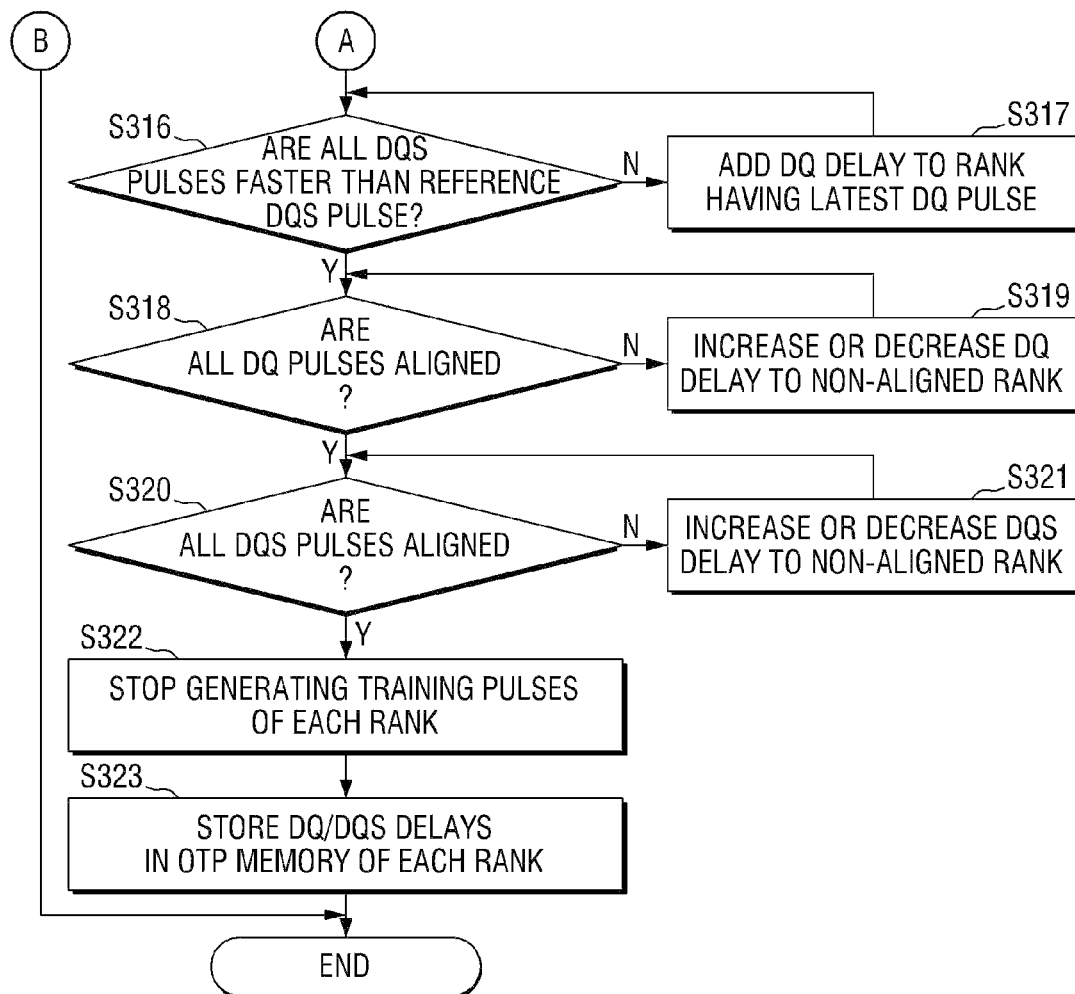


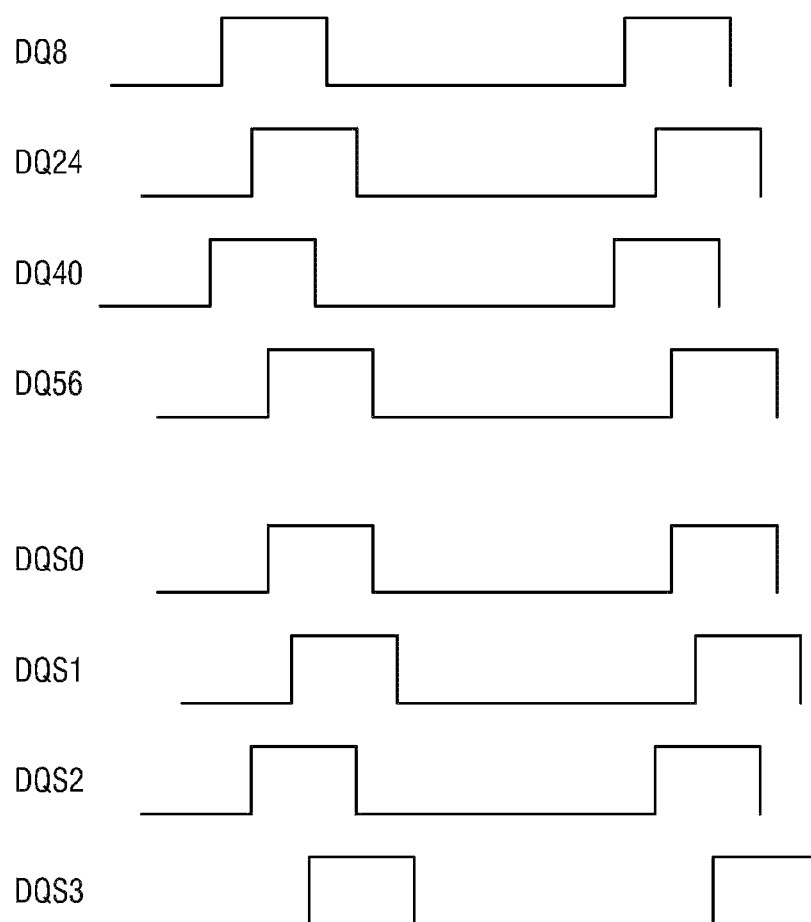
FIG. 14

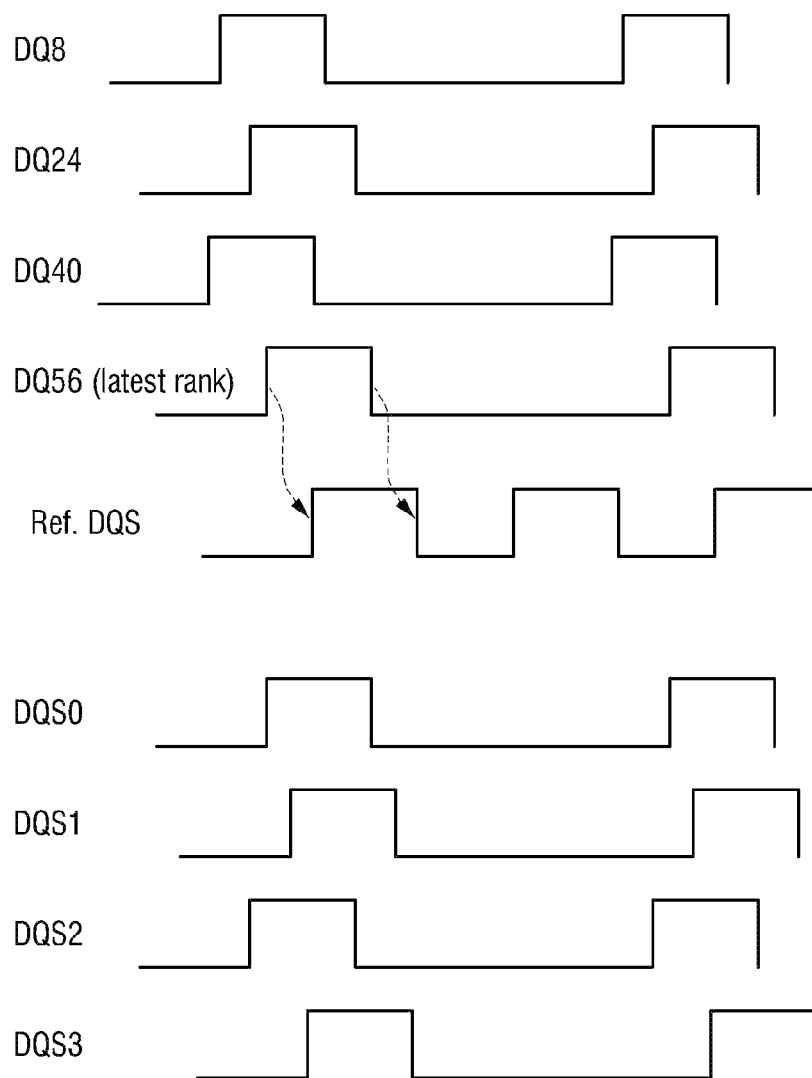
FIG. 15

FIG. 16

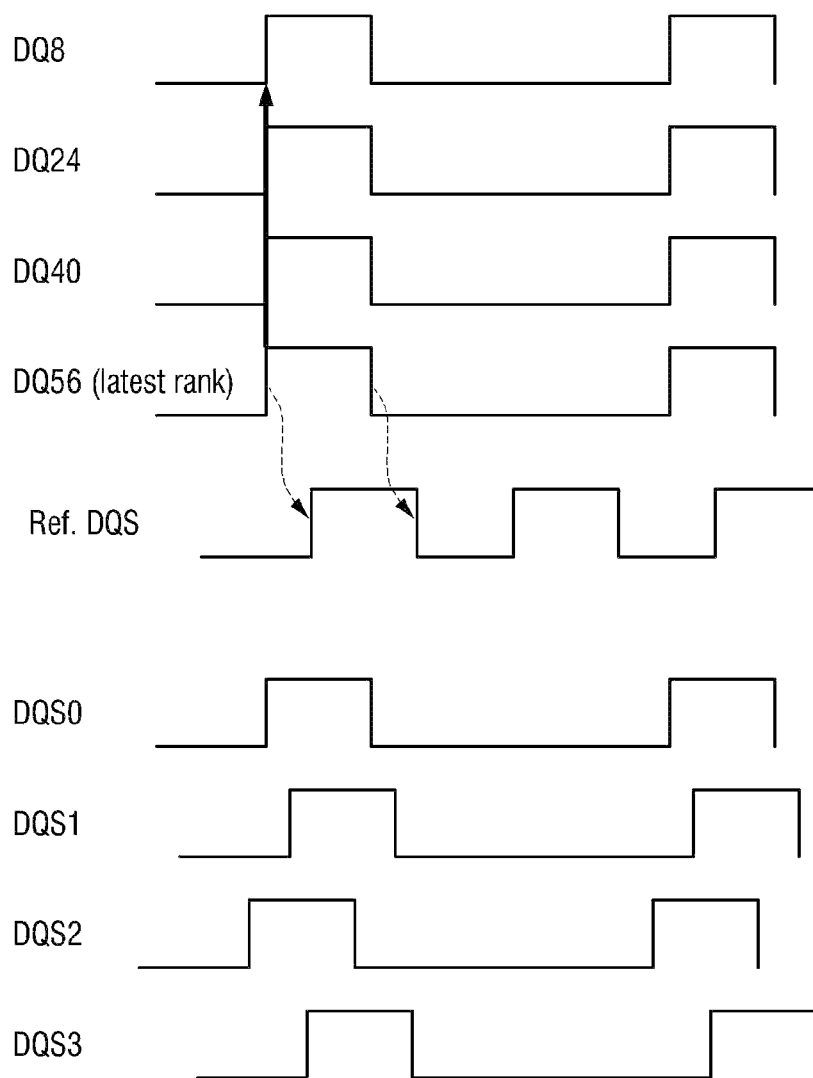
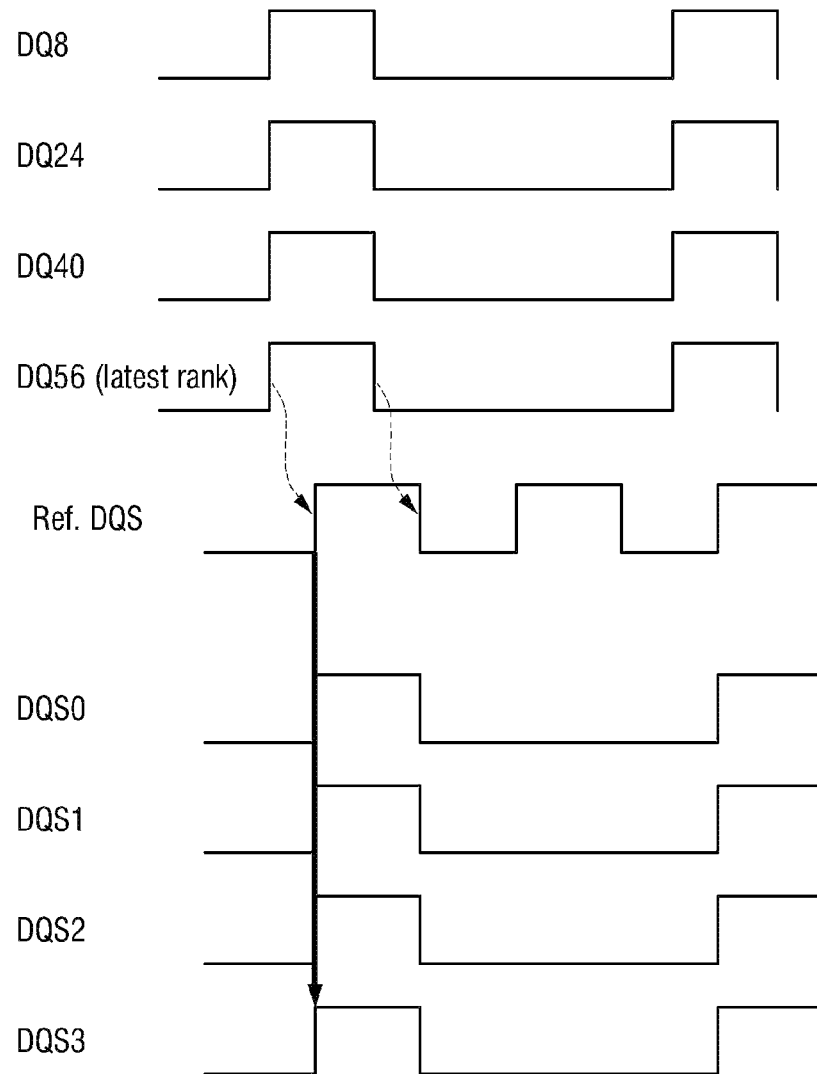


FIG. 17

1

MEMORY SYSTEM HAVING MEMORY RANKS AND RELATED TUNING METHOD

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 to Korean Patent Application No. 10-2012-0103457 filed on Sep. 18, 2012, the subject matter of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The inventive concept relates generally to electronic memory technologies. More particularly, certain embodiments of the inventive concept relate to memory systems having memory ranks and methods of tuning electrical parameters of the memory ranks.

A memory rank is a set of memories that are accessed concurrently. As an example, a memory rank may comprise multiple dynamic random access memory (DRAM) chips connected to the same chip select signal to allow concurrent access to the chips. Memory ranks are commonly used, for instance, in memory modules comprising several memory chips.

In general, the concurrent access of different memory chips in a memory rank requires an ability to control the timing and other aspects of access operations. As memory systems become increasingly intricate and/or complex, there is a general need for new techniques for performing these control operations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one embodiment of the inventive concept, a memory device comprises at least two memory ranks sharing input/output lines, at least one mode register configured to store bits used to tune delays of data signals of the at least two ranks output through the input/output lines, a controller configured to determine tuning parameters for the data signals based on the stored bits in the at least one mode register, the tuning parameters comprising at least the delays of the data signals, and at least one nonvolatile memory disposed in at least one of the at least two memory ranks and configured to store the tuning parameters.

In another embodiment of the inventive concept, a tuning method for a memory device comprises operating least two memory ranks sharing input/output lines to generate pulses having a same phase from different DQ and DQS pins, generating a reference DQS pulse having a phase difference of 90 degrees from a latest DQ pulse among DQ pulses of the at least two memory ranks, aligning phases of DQ pulses of the at least two memory ranks by increasing or decreasing DQ delays based on the latest DQ pulse, aligning phases of DQS pulses with the at least two ranks by increasing or decreasing DQS delays based on the reference DQS pulse, and storing increasing or decreasing results of the DQ delay and the DQS delay in a nonvolatile memory.

In yet another embodiment of the inventive concept, a memory device comprises at least one memory rank comprising a plurality of memory chips, at least one mode register configured to store bits used to tune electrical parameters of data signals of the at least two ranks output through the input/output lines, a controller configured to tune the electrical parameters based on the stored bits in the at least one mode register, the electrical parameters comprising alternating current (AC) timing parameters, and at least one nonvolatile

2

memory disposed in at least one of the at least two memory ranks and configured to store the electrical parameters.

These and other embodiments of the inventive concept can potentially improve the performance of a device by storing tuned electrical parameters in a nonvolatile memory for relatively efficient access.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The drawings illustrate selected embodiments of the inventive concept. In the drawings, like reference numbers indicate like features.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a memory system according to an embodiment of the inventive concept.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram for explaining various electrical parameters of the memory system of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram for explaining various electrical parameters of the memory system of FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 is a block diagram for explaining various electrical parameters of the memory system of FIG. 1.

FIG. 5 is a block diagram for explaining various electrical parameters of the memory system of FIG. 1.

FIG. 6 is a block diagram for explaining various electrical parameters of the memory system of FIG. 1.

FIG. 7 is a block diagram for explaining various electrical parameters of the memory system of FIG. 1.

FIG. 8 is a table illustrating operations of a mode register of the memory system of FIG. 1.

FIG. 9 is a table illustrating operations of a mode register of the memory system of FIG. 1.

FIG. 10 is a table illustrating operations of a mode register of the memory system of FIG. 1.

FIG. 11 is a table illustrating operations of a mode register of the memory system of FIG. 1.

FIG. 12 is a table illustrating operations of a mode register of the memory system of FIG. 1.

FIG. 13A is a flowchart illustrating a tuning method for data signals in a memory system according to an embodiment of the inventive concept.

FIG. 13B is a flowchart further illustrating the tuning method of FIG. 13A.

FIG. 14 is a timing diagram for the tuning method of FIGS. 13A and 13B.

FIG. 15 is a timing diagram for the tuning method of FIGS. 13A and 13B.

FIG. 16 is a timing diagram for the tuning method of FIGS. 13A and 13B.

FIG. 17 is a timing diagram for the tuning method of FIGS. 13A and 13B.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Embodiments of the inventive concept are described below with reference to the accompanying drawings. These embodiments are presented as teaching examples and should not be construed to limit the scope of the inventive concept.

In the description that follows, the terms “a” and “an” and “the” and similar referents are to be construed to cover both singular and plural forms of the corresponding features, unless indicated to the contrary. Unless otherwise defined, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art. The use of any and all examples, or example terms herein is intended merely to better illuminate the inventive concept and is not a limitation on the scope of the inventive concept unless otherwise specified. Further, unless indicated

to the contrary, all terms defined in generally used dictionaries are to be interpreted in proper context and not in an overly formal manner.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a memory system according to an embodiment of the inventive concept.

Referring to FIG. 1, memory system 1 comprises a controller 100 and a memory module 200.

Controller 100 transmits a clock signal CLK, a select signal CS, and a command signal CMD to memory module 200 to transmit and receive data signals DQ and DQS. Command signal CMD comprises a mode register set (MRS) signal, a tMRS signal, and an OTP signal, which are described in further detail below. Data signal DQ is a bidirectional data bus signal. Data signal DQS is a data strobe signal having a positive-edge and a negative-edge with a phase difference from data signal DQ. In the description that follows, various features related to data signals DQ and DQS will be indicated with labels including the symbols “DQ” and “DQS”. For instance, a pulse in a data signal DQ may be referred to as a “DQ pulse”, and a clock signal of data signal DQ may be referred to as CLKDQ.

Memory module 200 comprises a plurality of memory chips arranged in an assembly in memory system 1. Memory module 200 comprises a plurality of ranks 210, 220, 230 and 240. Each of the ranks comprises multiple memory chips configured as a coherent logical or physical operational unit of memory module 200. In general, memory module 200 can comprise any number of ranks, but it will be described as having four ranks for convenience. Accordingly, the memory chips of memory module 200 are divided into four groups, and operate by groups of a first rank 210, a second rank 220, a third rank 230, and a fourth rank 240.

Each of ranks 210 to 240 comprises a mode register 211, a test-mode (tmode) register 212, and a nonvolatile memory 213. Mode register 211 is programmed by the MRS signal, and tmode register 212 is programmed by the tMRS signal. Various electrical parameters of ranks 210 to 240 can be tuned or calibrated. Tmode register 212 is an extended register for testing the electrical parameters in a test mode of memory system 1. Nonvolatile memory 213 stores tuning/calibration results of the electrical parameters by the OTP signal. Nonvolatile memory 213 may be, for example, a one-time programmable (OTP) memory. Nonvolatile memory 213 stores the tuning/calibration results of the electrical parameters using an anti-fuse approach.

In the described example, the electrical parameters are parameters for controlling operations of ranks 210 to 240. For example, the parameters may be parameters for controlling AC timing. The parameters for controlling AC timing may comprise, for example, a clock timing parameter, such as an average clock cycle or average clock pulsewidth, DQ/DQS delay, a read timing parameter, such as DQ output setup time or DQ output hold time, a write timing parameter, such as DQ input setup time or DQ input hold time, a command timing parameter, such as address/control input setup time or address/control input hold time, and a register timing parameter, such as mode register write cycle or state register read cycle. Certain details of electrical parameters for controlling AC timing are described, for instance, in “Wide I/O Single Data Rate” of JEDEC Standard No. 229. The tuning/calibration results of the electrical parameters stored in nonvolatile memory 213 can be transferred to a circuit of generating AC timing during a power-up time of memory module 200.

Respective ranks 210 to 240 are connected to controller 100 through logical/physical channels. In memory system 1, respective ranks 210 to 240 are connected to controller 100 through one channel, but aspects of the inventive concept are

not limited thereto. For example, one channel may be assigned to each of the plurality of ranks. Each channel may have its own clock signal CLK, select signal CS, command signal CMD, and data signals DQ and DQS.

Select signal CS comprises a first select signal selecting memory chips of first rank 210, a second select signal selecting memory chips of second rank 220, a third select signal selecting memory chips of third rank 230, and a fourth select signal selecting memory chips of fourth rank 240. Memory chips of ranks receiving select signal CS perform access operations, while memory chips of ranks not receiving select signal CS do not perform access operations. As described above, command signal CMD comprises the MRS signal, the tMRS signal and the OTP signal. Data signals DQ and DQS may have tri-states of a high level, a low level, and high impedance. Meanwhile, in memory system 1, various signals, in addition to clock signal CLK, select signal CS, command signal CMD and data signals DQ and DQS, may be propagated or transmitted/received between controller 100 and memory module 200.

FIGS. 2 to 7 are block diagrams for explaining various electrical parameters of the memory system of FIG. 1. Although various electrical parameters are described with reference to FIGS. 2 to 7, the inventive concept is not limited to these parameters.

Referring to FIG. 2, each of ranks 210 to 240 comprises a clock buffer 11 (CLKDQBUF), a clock repeater 12 (CLKDQ_REP), DQ buffers 13 (DQBUF0~DQBUF_n), and DQ drivers 14 (DQDRV0~DQDRV_n).

Clock buffer 11 receives clock signals CLK/CLKB from controller 100 and outputs a CLKDQ generated by adjusting a duty of clock signals CLK/CLKB. Here, the duty is a pulse-width ratio per cycle of a signal. CLKDQ is a clock signal input to DQ buffers 13. Clock buffer 11 adjusts the duty by controlling a rising/falling time of CLKDQ according to a CLKDQ_H/L parameter.

Clock repeater 12 reproduces the attenuated CLKDQ. Clock repeater 12 outputs a CLKF signal obtained by adjusting a propagation delay time of CLKDQ. Clock repeater 12 adjusts a propagation delay time of the CLKDQ according to a CLKDQ_DLY parameter.

DQ buffers 13 receive the CLKF signal from clock repeater 12. Each of DQ buffers 13 outputs a DOK_n signal obtained by adjusting the propagation delay time and duty of data signal DQ. Each of DQ buffers 13 adjusts the propagation delay time of the DOK_n signal by the DQn_DLY parameter, and adjusts the duty of the DOK_n signal by controlling the rising/falling time of DOK_n signal by the DQn_H/L parameter.

DQ drivers 14 receive the DOK_n signal from DQ buffers 13. Each of DQ drivers 14 adjusts a pull-up current by an IOH_n parameter and adjusts a pull-down current by an IOL_n parameter.

Referring to FIG. 3, each of ranks 210 to 240 comprises a clock buffer 21 (CLKBUF), an internal clock buffer 22 (IO_INTCLK), command buffers 23 (CMDBUF0~CMDBUF_n), command flipflops 24 (CMDFS0~CMDFS_n).

Clock buffer 21 receives clock signals CLK/CLKB from controller 100. Clock buffer 21 outputs a PCLKF_CA signal obtained by adjusting a propagation delay time and duty of clock signals CLK/CLKB. Clock buffer 21 adjusts the propagation delay time of the PCLKF_CA signal according to a CLK_DLY parameter and adjusts the duty of the PCLKF_CA signal by controlling the rising/falling time of the PCLKF_CA signal according to a CLK_H/L.

Internal clock buffer 22 receives the PCLKF_CA signal from clock buffer 21. The PCLKF_CA signal comprises sampling clocks of flipflops other than command flipflops 24.

Internal clock buffer **22** outputs a PCLKF signal obtained by readjusting the propagation delay time of the PCLKF_CA signal. Internal clock buffer **22** adjusts the propagation delay time of the PCLKF signal by the CLKI_DLY parameter.

Command buffers **23** receive command signals CA0 to CAn from controller **100**. Command signals CA0 to CAn comprise address signals. Each of command buffers **23** outputs a TCAn signal obtained by adjusting the propagation delay time and duty of each of command signals CA0 to CAn. Each of command buffers **23** adjusts the propagation delay time of the TCAn signal according to a CAn_DLY parameter and adjusts the duty of the TCAn signal by controlling the rising/falling time of the TCAn signal according to a CAn_H/L parameter.

Command flipflops **24** receive the TCAn signal from command buffers **23** and the PCLKF_CA signal is input from clock buffer **21**. Each of command flipflops **24** convert the TCAn signal using the PCLKF_CA signal as a sampling clock.

Referring to FIG. 4, each of ranks **210** to **240** comprises DIN buffers **33** (DINBUF0 to DINBUFn), DIN flipflops **34** (DINFS), a DQS buffer **31** (DQSBUF), and a PDS block **32** (PDS).

DIN buffers **33** receive data signals DQ0 to DQn from controller **100**. DIN buffers **33** output a TDQn signal obtained by adjusting the propagation delay time and duty of data signals DQ0 to DQn. DIN buffers **33** adjust the propagation delay time of the TDQn signal according to a DQn_DLY parameter and adjust the duty of the TDQn signal by controlling the rising/falling time of the TDQn signal according to a DQn_H/L parameter.

DQS buffer **31** receives data signal DQSs DQS/DQSB from controller **100**. DQS buffer **31** outputs a Tdata signal DQS obtained by adjusting the propagation delay time and duty of data signal DQS DQS/DQSB. DQS buffer **31** adjusts the propagation delay time and duty of Tdata signal DQS according to a DQS_DLY parameter and adjusts the duty of Tdata signal DQS by controlling the rising/falling time of Tdata signal DQS according to a DQS_H/L parameter.

PDS block **32** receives Tdata signal DQS and outputs a PDS signal obtained by adjusting the propagation delay time of Tdata signal DQS. PDS block **32** adjusts the propagation delay time of the PDS signal by a DQSI_DLY parameter.

DIN flipflops **34** receive the TDQn signal from DIN buffers **33** and Tdata signal DQS from DQS buffer **31**. Each of DIN flipflops **34** converts the TDQn signal using Tdata signal DQS as a sampling clock.

Referring to FIG. 5, each of ranks **210** to **240** comprises a DQS buffer **43** (DQSBUF), a PDS block **44** (PDS), a clock buffer **41** (CLKBUF), and a PWX block **42** (PWX). DQS buffer **43** receives DQS<3> and DQSB<3> signals from controller **100**. DQS buffer **43** adjusts and outputs the propagation delay time of each of the DQS<3> and DQSB<3> signals. PDS block **44** receives adjusted signals from DQS buffer **43**, adjusts the propagation delay time and outputs a PDS signal. PDS block **44** adjusts the propagation delay time of the PDS signal by a PDS_DLY parameter.

Clock buffer **41** receives clock signals CLK and CLKB from controller **100**. Clock buffer **41** adjusts the propagation delay time of each of clock signals CLK and CLKB and outputs adjusted signals. PWX block **42** receives the adjusted signals from clock buffer **41**, adjusts the propagation delay time, and outputs a PWY signal. PWX block **42** adjusts the propagation delay time of the PWY signal by a PWY_DLY parameter.

Referring to FIG. 6, each of ranks **210** to **240** comprises a reference voltage (Vref) calibration block **51**, comparators **52** and **53**, and a MUX **54**.

A reference voltage (VREF) is input to Vref calibration block **51**, and Vref calibration block **51** calibrates reference voltage VREF and outputs a Vrefi voltage. Vref calibration block **51** increases or decreases the level of the Vrefi voltage by a Vref_con parameter.

The Vrefi voltage and data signal DQ are input to the first comparator **52** (DiffAmp1), and data signal DQ is input to the second comparator **53** (DiffAmp2). Here, second comparator **53** can be replaced by an inverter. First comparator **52** increases or decreases the current according to a CUR parameter. Outputs of first comparator **52** and second comparator **53** are input to MUX **54**, and MUX **54** selects the type of an input buffer by a SEL parameter.

Referring to FIG. 7, each of ranks **210** to **240** comprises a first calibration block **60** and a second calibration block **70**. First calibration block **60** performs a pull-up operation, and second calibration block **70** performs a pull-down operation.

First calibration block **60** comprises a plurality of flipflops **62**, and TMRSF_BCODE_P<6:0> bits **61** are input to respective flipflops **62**. First calibration block **60** outputs calibrated Bcode_PO<6:0>. The bit value of Bcode_PO<6:0> is increased by TMRSF_BCODE_P<6:0>. The bit value of Bcode_PAD<6:0> is increased again by an ADD_UP parameter.

Second calibration block **70** comprises a plurality of flipflops **72**, and TMRSF_BCODE_N<6:0> bits **71** are input to respective flipflops **72**. First calibration block **70** outputs calibrated Bcode_NO<6:0>. The bit value of Bcode_NO<6:0> is increased by TMRSF_BCODE_N<6:0>. The bit value of Bcode_NAD<6:0> is increased again by an ADD_DN parameter.

Meanwhile, in memory system 1, controller **100** and memory module **200** may be packaged using through silicon vias (TSVs) or micro bump balls. Here, if contact resistance of TSV or micro bump ball is high, an increase in the data input/output delay can be detected, and the TSV or micro bump ball can be replaced by extra normal TSV or micro bump ball.

Tuning/calibration of the electrical parameters may be performed in units of pins of memory module **200** by an MRS signal or a tMRS signal or in units of ranks. In addition, where one channel is allocated to a plurality of ranks, tuning/calibration of the electrical parameters may be performed in units of channels. The tuning/calibration of the electrical parameters may also be performed on all components of memory module **200**. Nonvolatile memory **213** may store tuning/calibration results of the electrical parameters in various units.

Hereinafter, a method of tuning various electrical parameters, for example, data signals, will be described with regard to memory system 1. The method will be described with respect to a memory system comprising a plurality of ranks.

In memory system 1, ranks **210** to **240** share input/output lines. The input/output lines may comprise, for example, a data signal DQ line and a data signal DQS line. Meanwhile, different data signals DQ and DQS are output from the input/output lines of respective ranks **210** to **240** according to the process voltage temperature (PVT), and collision may occur between data signals DQ and DQS of respective ranks **210** to **240**. To this end, there are standards for tuning data signals between the plurality of ranks in the multi-rank memory system. Examples of these standards are described in "Wide I/O Single Data Rate" of JEDEC Standard No. 229. The standards provide methods for tuning data signals between the plurality of ranks in the multi-rank memory system. In

those methods, the tuned values of the data signals cannot be fixed or stored, so tuning of the data signals between the plurality of ranks is repeatedly performed every time the multi-rank memory system is in a power-up mode. In addition, even if tuned values of the data signals are stored in a separate chip of the multi-rank memory system, the process of propagating the tuned values of the data signals stored in the chip to the memory device during a power-up time of the multi-rank memory system is repeatedly performed using the MRS signal.

Memory module **200** of memory system **1** comprises a nonvolatile memory **213** storing tuning results of delays of data signals DQ and DQS. Accordingly, at a testing time of memory system **1**, the tuning results of delays of data signals DQ and DQS between the plurality of ranks **210** to **240** are stored in nonvolatile memory **213**, and the same process may not be repeated where memory system **1** is mounted.

In addition, minute tuning of data signals DQ and DQS between ranks **210** to **240** is performed according to environmental changes where memory system **1** is mounted. The tuning results of delays of data signals DQ and DQS stored in nonvolatile memory **213** are transferred to a circuit generating data signals DQ and DQS during the power-up time of memory module **200**. Circuits generating data signals DQ and DQS may include, for example, a DQ buffer that adjusts a propagation delay of data signal DQ and a DQS buffer that adjusts a propagation delay of data signal DQS. Due to the process of transferring the tuned values of data signals DQ and DQS to memory module **200**, a booting speed of memory module **200** may be improved.

FIGS. **8** to **12** are tables illustrating operations of a mode register of the memory system of FIG. **1**. Various values are programmed to mode register **211**. The respective values are programmed to mode register **211** by an MRS signal. Mode register **211** is programmed where memory system **1** is reset or initialized, and default values thereof are not defined.

Referring to FIG. **8**, mode register **211** is divided into a plurality of fields according to functionality and/or mode. For example, mode register **211** may be divided into mode registers MR0 to MR7. In particular, tuning of data signals DQ and DQS is performed by modifying bits A7 to A0 of mode register MR5.

Referring to FIG. **9**, the number of delay steps of memory system **1** is determined by a bit string DQ<17:16>. Bit string DQ<17:16> comprises bits of a state register (not shown) of each of ranks **210** to **230**. Where bit string DQ<17:16> of the state register is set to "00," no delay step is provided. Where bit string DQ<17:16> of the state register is set to "01," 8 delay steps are provided. Where bit string DQ<17:16> of the state register is set to "10," 16 delay steps are provided. Where bit string DQ<17:16> of the state register is set to "11," 32 delay steps are provided. Here, the step size is not defined but is variable.

As described above, data signal tuning of memory system **1** is controlled by mode register MR5. Interleaving of DQ delay and DQS delay is determined by bit string A<3:0> of mode register MR5. Here, bit strings A<16> and BA<1:0> of mode register MR5 are set to "101."

Referring to FIG. **10**, the DQ delay is supplied to data signal DQ from a positive going edge from a clock. Where bit string A<1:0> of mode register MR5 is set to "00," the DQ delay is not changed. Where bit string A<1:0> of mode register MR5 is set to "01," the DQ delay is increased by 1 element. Where bit string A<1:0> of mode register MR5 is set to "10," the DQ delay is decreased by 1 element. Where bit string A<1:0> of mode register MR5 is set to "11," all of the DQ delays are removed.

Referring to FIG. **11**, the DQ delay is supplied to data signal DQ from a negative going edge from a clock. Where bit string A<3:2> of mode register MR5 is set to "00," the DQS delay is not changed. Where bit string A<3:2> of mode register MR5 is set to "01," the DQS delay is increased by 1 element. Where bit string A<3:2> of mode register MR5 is set to "10," the DQS delay is decreased by 1 element. Where bit string A<3:2> of mode register MR5 is set to "11," all of the DQS delays are removed.

Controlling of tuning pulses is determined by bit string A<7:4> of mode register MR5. Here, bit string A<16> and bit string BA<1:0> of mode register MR5 is set to "101." The tuning pulses are training pulses for tuning data signals DQ and DQS of memory system **1**. Each rank transfers training pulses of the same phase from different DQ and DQS pins.

Referring to FIG. **12**, where bit string A<7:4> of mode register MR5 is set to "0001," training pulses are propagated as data signals DQ8 and DQS0. Where bit string A<7:4> of mode register MR5 is set to "0010," training pulses are propagated as data signals DQ24 and DQS1. Where bit string A<7:4> of mode register MR5 is set to "0100," training pulses are propagated as data signals DQ40 and DQS2. Where bit string A<7:4> of mode register MR5 is set to "1000," training pulses are propagated as data signals DQ56 and DQS3. Where bit string A<7:4> of mode register MR5 is set to "0000," normal DQ/DQS functionality is performed.

CK/2 indicates a value obtained by dividing the frequency of a clock by 2. +CK/2 indicates a value obtained by triggering an edge transition by a rising edge of a clock and dividing the triggered edge transition by 2. -CK/2 indicates a value obtained by triggering an edge transition by a falling edge and dividing the triggered edge transition by 2.

Meanwhile, tmode register **212** of memory system **1** operates in substantially the same manner as mode register **211**. In certain alternative implementations, tmode register **212** may be programmed by a tMRS signal transferred from a separate device (not shown) instead of internal controller **100** of memory system **1**.

FIGS. **13A** and **13B** are flowcharts illustrating a tuning method for data signals in a memory system according to an embodiment of the inventive concept. FIGS. **14** through **17** are timing diagrams for the tuning method of FIGS. **13A** and **13B**. For explanation purposes, the tuning method will be described with reference to memory system **1** of FIG. **1**, although it is not limited to this system.

Referring to FIGS. **13A** and **13B**, controller **100** reads state registers of ranks **210** to **240** (S310) and determines whether tuning of DQ/DQSs is necessary (S311). Next, if tuning of data signals DQ/DQS is necessary, controller **100** resets ranks **210** to **240** by removing all of DQ delays and DQS delays of ranks **210** to **240** (S312). Here, first to fourth ranks **210** to **240** are all selected by a select signal CS, and the bit string A<7:0> of each of ranks **210** to **240** is set to "00001111". Meanwhile, bit strings A<16> and BA<1:0> of mode register MR5 of each of ranks **210** to **240** is set to "101."

Next, controller **100** controls ranks **210** to **240** to generate training pulses of the same phase from different DQ and DQS pins using the MRS signal (S313). For example, first rank **210** propagates DQ/DQS pulses of data signals DQ8 and DQS0, second rank **220** propagates DQ/DQS pulses of data signals DQ24 and DQS1, third rank **230** propagates DQ/DQS pulses of data signals DQ40 and DQS2, and fourth rank **240** propagates DQ/DQS pulses of data signals DQ56 and DQS3. Here, first rank **210** is selected by select signal CS to set bit strings A<7:0> of mode register MR5 to "00010000," second rank **220** is selected to set bit strings A<7:0> of mode register MR5 to "00100000," third rank **230** is selected to set bit string

9

A<7:0> of mode register MR5 to “01000000,” and fourth rank **240** is selected to set bit string A<7:0> bits of mode register MR5 to “10000000.” Meanwhile, bit strings A<16> and BA<1:0> of mode register MR5 of each of ranks **210** to **240** are set to “101.” As shown in FIG. 14, DQ pulses of the same phase are propagated as data signals DQ8, DQ24, DQ40, and DQ56, and DQS pulses of the same phase are propagated as data signals DQS0, DQS1, DQS2, and DQS3. However, none of the pulses are aligned and pulses having different phases are generated.

Next, controller **100** determines a rank having a latest DQ pulse using a phase differentiation circuit (not shown) (S314). Controller **100** comprising the phase differentiation circuit determines relative arrival timing of different DQ/DQS pulses transferred from memory module **200**. As shown in FIG. 15, a pulse of data signal DQ56 among data signals DQ8, DQ24, DQ40, and DQ56 is determined as the latest DQ pulse.

Subsequently, memory module **200** generates a reference DQS pulse from a reference DQS generation circuit (not shown) based on the latest DQ pulse (S315). Here, the reference DQS pulse is generated to have the same frequency as the latest DQ pulse and to have edges positioned at the center of high and low times of DQ.

The reference DQS pulse is generated to have a phase difference of 90 degrees from DQ56 pulse that is the latest DQ pulse. Next, controller **100** determines whether DQS pulses of all of ranks **210** to **240** are faster than the reference DQS pulse (S316).

Next, if DQS pulses of all of ranks **210** to **240** are not faster than the reference DQS pulse, controller **100** adds a DQ delay to the rank having the latest DQ pulse (S317). Then, reference DQS pulses are repeatedly generated based on the latest DQ pulse. Delays are repeatedly added to the rank having the latest DQ pulse until DQS pulses of all of ranks **210** to **240** become faster than the reference DQS pulse. Here, the rank of the latest DQ pulse is selected by select signal CS to set bit string A<7:0> of mode register MR5 of the rank to “00000001.” Meanwhile, bit strings A<16> and BA<1:0> of mode register MR5 of the rank are set to “101.”

Subsequently, if DQS pulses of all of ranks **210** to **240** are faster than the reference DQS pulse, controller **100** determines whether DQ pulses of all of ranks **210** to **240** are aligned with the latest DQ pulse (S318).

Subsequently, if DQ pulses of all of ranks **210** to **240** are not aligned with the latest DQ pulse, controller **100** increases or decreases DQ delays to ranks that are not aligned with the latest DQ pulse (S319). Here, the rank that is not aligned is selected by select signal CS to then select A<7:0> bits of mode register MR5 to “00000001” or “00000010.” Meanwhile, bit strings A<16> and BA<1:0> of mode register MR5 of the rank are set to “101.” As shown in FIG. 16, DQ delays are increased or decreased to respective ranks **210** to **240** to align pulses of data signals DQ8, DQ24 and DQ40 with the latest pulse of data signal DQ56.

Next, if DQ pulses of all of ranks **210** to **240** are aligned with the latest DQ pulse, controller **100** determines whether DQS pulses of all of ranks **210** to **240** are aligned with the reference DQS pulse (S320). Thereafter, if DQS pulses of all of ranks **210** to **240** are not aligned, controller **100** increases or decreases DQS delay to the ranks that are not aligned with the reference DQS pulse (S321). Here, the rank that is not aligned is selected by select signal CS to set A<7:0> bits of mode register MR5 of the rank to “00000100” or “00001000.” Meanwhile, A<16> and BA<1:0> bits of mode register MR5 of the rank are set to “101.” As shown in FIG.

10

17, DQS delays are increased or decreased to respective ranks **210** to **240** to align pulses of data signals DQ8, DQ24 and DQ40 with the reference DQS pulse.

Next, if DQS pulses of all of ranks **210** to **240** are aligned, controller **100** controls ranks **210** to **240** to stop generating training pulses and performs normal DQ/DQS functionality (S322). Here, first to fourth ranks **210** to **240** are all selected by select signal CS to set A<7:0> bits of each of ranks **210** to **240** to “00000000.” Meanwhile, A<16> and BA<1:0> bits of mode register MR5 of the rank MR5 are set to “101.” Next, controller **100** stores data signal tuning results, that is to say, DQ delays and DQS delays, in nonvolatile memory **211** of each of ranks **210** to **240** (S323).

In the above-described embodiment of the inventive concept, memory system **1** may be provided as a system in package (SIP). If memory system **1** is provided as the SIP, controller **100** may be a system on chip (SOC).

The foregoing is illustrative of embodiments and is not to be construed as limiting thereof. Although a few embodiments have been described, those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that many modifications are possible in the embodiments without departing from scope of the inventive concept as defined in the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A memory device, comprising:

- at least two memory ranks sharing input/output lines,
- at least one mode register configured to store bits used to tune delays of data signals of the at least two ranks output through the input/output lines;
- a controller configured to determine tuning parameters for the data signals based on the stored bits in the at least one mode register, the tuning parameters comprising at least the delays of the data signals; and
- at least one nonvolatile memory disposed in at least one of the at least two memory ranks and configured to store the tuning parameters.

2. The memory device of claim 1, wherein the at least one nonvolatile memory comprises a one-time-programmable memory.

3. The memory device of claim 1, wherein the tuning parameters are transferred to a circuit configured to generate data signals of the at least two ranks during a power-up time of the memory device.

4. The memory device of claim 1, wherein the data signals comprise a data signal DQ and a data signal DQS.

5. The memory device of claim 4, wherein the circuit generating the data signals comprises a DQ buffer controlling a propagation delay of the data signal DQ and a DQS buffer controlling a propagation delay of the data signal DQS.

6. The memory device of claim 1, wherein the tuning parameters are stored in the nonvolatile memory using an anti-fuse technique.

7. The memory device of claim 1, wherein the at least one nonvolatile memory is disposed in at least two of the at least two ranks.

8. The memory device of claim 1, wherein the tuning parameters comprise a duty of the data signals.

9. The memory device of claim 1, wherein the tuning parameters comprise a clock timing of the data signals.

10. The memory device of claim 1, wherein the tuning parameters comprise a setup or hold time of the data signals.

11. The memory device of claim 1, wherein each of the at least two memory ranks comprises a plurality of dynamic random access memory (DRAM) chips.

* * * * *